

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 1, 1911.

A meeting of the Board of Public Works was held in the Governor's Office, #504 Union Trust Building, on Friday morning at ten o'clock.

Present, Governor Crothers, Comptroller Stanley, and State Treasurer Vandiver.

A large delegation from Annapolis appeared before the Board in reference to the sale of the State's interest in the Annapolis Water Company. Mayor Strange, on behalf of the City of Annapolis, presented the following resolution adopted by the Council:-

WHEREAS, The Mayor, Counselor and Alderman of the City of Annapolis having been informed of the purpose of the Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland to sell the State's interests in certain investments held by the State, the stock of the Annapolis Water Company, being one of the stocks enumerated for sale, and

WHEREAS, That in view of the fact that the City holds jointly with the State the controlling interest, amounting to about two-thirds of the entire stock, and should the State's holdings fall into private hands this company will become a private monopoly, greatly to the disadvantage of the City, and

WHEREAS, The City has always, prior to the incorporation of this company, furnished pumps for its citizens and the public, and

WHEREAS, Further, the City is desirous of purchasing the State's holdings and pay what is reasonable and just, yet, fearing that by going into the open market, as the law provides, that some unscrupulous and selfish individuals might combine to defeat the ends of the City by over-bidding and having delivered to them the State's stock, which amounts to within thirteen shares of one-half of the entire stock.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Mayor, Counselor, and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis, that we earnestly request that, unless the law will permit the City to be a preferred purchaser and take over the stock at a price higher than any other bidder, that your honorable Board will withhold the sale of the stock of the Annapolis Water Company until legislative action can be taken making the City a preferred purchaser on such terms as the Board of Public Works may approve and recommend.

I, Philip E. Porter, City Clerk of Annapolis, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor, Counselor, and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis at a meeting held on the 25th day of October, 1911.

In testimony whereof, I, as Clerk of said City, hereby subscribe my name and affix the seal of the said city this 25th day of October, 1911.

Philip E. Porter,
City Clerk of Annapolis.

(SEAL)

True Copy: test.

Philip E. Porter, City Clerk.

Mr. Douw, Dr. Thompson, and Mr. Hugh R. Riley also spoke on behalf of the City of Annapolis, and urged the Board of Public Works to countermand for the present its order to sell the State's interests in the Water Company, until after the Legislature meets when they could secure some necessary legislation. They were also very much afraid that the stock would be purchased by private interests, and that the City would be at the mercy of an outside corporation.

Mr. John Wirt Randall and Mr. Harry J. Hopkins appeared

before the Board and spoke on behalf of the private stock-holders, Mr. Hopkins offering the following communication:-

Annapolis, Md., Nov. 23, 1911.

To the Honorable

The Board of Public Works of Maryland:-

Whereas, the capital stock of the Annapolis Water Company amounts to \$61,450.00, held as follows:

The State of Maryland,	\$30,000.00
Private Stockholders,	21,450.00
The City of Annapolis,	10,000.00

And whereas, it appears, that by the divisional holdings as above, the said Company necessarily embraces the features of a Public, Private and Municipal corporation, with the State of Maryland holding nearly one-half of the entire capital stock, now therefore,

We, the undersigned, citizens and large taxpayers of the City of Annapolis, hereby respectfully petition your Honorable Board not to sell the State's interest in said Water Company as advertised for sale December 28, 1911, for the following reasons, viz:-

The management of the Company, as now constituted, has always been entirely in the hands of the citizens of this City; that the same has been honestly and economically administered; that water rents have been continuously reduced, so that today they are far below those of other companies of this State; that the water rate to the City of Annapolis notwithstanding its growth is only \$600.00 per annum, being reduced 50% within the past six years, enabling the City thereby to pay its water rental with the dividends of 6% on its stock holdings of \$10,000.00; that the State does not pay one dollar more to the Company than it did 15 years ago, notwithstanding the erection of the Court of Appeals and State House Annex buildings. By reason of the ownership by the State of public buildings, which for historic associations and for sentimental reasons are priceless, and from a pecuniary point of view equal to one-half of the assessable basis of the City, the State becomes vitally interested in a proper water supply in order that adequate fire protection be given thereto, and therefore should retain its interest in said Company.

That it would be unwise to sell said interest to the City of Annapolis for the following reasons, viz:-

First: The bonded debt of the City of Annapolis is now \$149,000.00, making a very heavy indebtedness upon the taxpayers of this City with a correspondingly high tax rate, while there remains at this time \$16,000.00 4% Bonds of the authorized issue of \$24,000.00 under the Act of 1910, Chapter 663, which the City has been unable so far to sell.

Secondly: The heavy bonded debt of the County, amounting to \$358,000.00, with a sinking fund of only \$27,331.31, with a probable increase of \$50,000.00 for public improvements, makes the county tax rate exceedingly high, to which must be added the increasing State tax.

Therefore, we respectfully submit that any further indebtedness by the City would be unwise, imprudent, and a grievous burden upon the property owners of this City and utterly unwarranted by the present conditions of efficient service and low water rates to the public, State and City.

Grafton D. Ridout.
Frank A. Munroe.
Jos. S. Hays.
D. S. Woodward.
S. Katherine Walton.
The Misses Andrews.
W. Meade Holladay.
Martin M. Smith.
L. H. Rehn.
William E. Feldmeyer.


Weems Ridout.
Harriet K. Green.
Samuel R. Frazier.
Charles Weiss.
T. Kent Green.
J. Wirt Randall.
James M. Munroe.
L. D. Gasaway.
William Woodward.
Bernhard Wiegard.

The Board did not take any action in reference to the sale of the stock at this meeting.

The following order was passed:-

In the matter of the request that this Board pledge the credit of the State for the purpose of raising sufficient funds to pay the salaries due to the police force and oyster inspectors, this Board, while recognizing the fact that the money is due and should be paid and that there is no money in the treasury to pay it by reason of the continual lawsuits instituted against the Comptroller to prevent its payment by the oyster packers, still this Board feeling and believing it has no right or power to do so, feels impelled to refuse the request, but the Governor and Comptroller are requested to bring the matter before the Legislature, who alone can appropriate or borrow, and do all they can morally to protect anyone advancing the money for the State in a case of necessity, recognizing the fact that without police protection and proper inspection, the oyster industry is unprotected.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned.


Secretary.

Annapolis, Md., December 22nd., 1911.

A meeting of the Board of Public Works was held in the Governor's Office, at 2 o'clock p.m.?

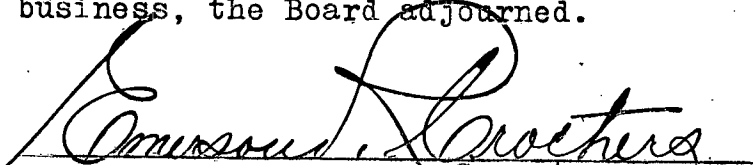
Present: Governor Crothers, Comptroller Stanley and Treasurer Vandiver.

The State Comptroller being duly sworn by the Governor answered satisfactorily the following interrogatories:

1. State the amount of your gross receipts for the last fiscal year ?
2. State the amount of your disbursements for like period?
3. What amount of cash was in the Treasury, Oct. 1st., 1911?
4. Are the accounts of your office compared with those of the State Treasurer's Office, and if so how often?
5. Are pay warrants signed by you in blank?
6. Do you keep a duplicate Register of Stock?
7. Are the accounts of the Clerks of Courts and Registers of Wills properly audited each quarter?
8. Do you specify the Chapter or Statute in each pay warrant?
9. State the amount of securities held in the sinking funds?
10. Give the character of such securities?
11. State the amount of money disbursed to Public Schools?
12. Are collections promptly made?

The State Treasurer, Mr. Vandiver, then being duly sworn by the Governor, made satisfactory answers to all questions touching his Office.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned.


Secretary.